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CIA Recruits Foreign Students On U.S. Campuses, Turner Admits

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The Central Intelligence Agency does hire foreign students on U.S. campuses but "without coercion," CIA Director Stansfield Turner disclosed Saturday.

"The CIA needs to contract with some foreign students in our country. . . very few of the 120,000 of these students," he told more than 500 faculty delegates at the national convention of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) here.

Turner, who said he was making his first public remarks on the issue of recruiting foreigners in the nation's colleges, contended methods used were "no more secretive in my opinion than much of the other recruiting that is done" in academe.

But, he said, "Let me assure you all such contracts are without coercion, entirely free and entirely a matter of choice."

On the general issue of recruiting, Turner, who was largely responding to questions from CIA critic Morton Halperin, director of the Center for National Security Studies, said, "We recruit today openly on about 150 different campuses just like businesses or other government agencies."

He added, "I'm sorry to have to tell you there are a few campuses on which we are denied the right to have free communications and free association."

Turner contended that it "should be very obvious" the intelligence agency is "just as dependent as the American business community and the American academic community on recruiting good U.S. students."

He told delegates attending the 64th annual AAUP convention that Halperin thought it was wrong when individuals are not informed they are being considered for CIA positions.

Yet, Turner said, "Everyone of you every year, I suspect, gets a number of letters asking who is a good graduate student, or who would be a good professor to be head of a department at another university."

"We recruit just like everybody else does. Some of it is open, some of it is not."

Amherst College President John William Ward felt freelance faculty ties should be known to college administrations.

Turner agreed that if colleges like Ward's require "all outside commitments of academic members be reported to the administration, the CIA should be no exception."

He would disagree, he said, if the CIA relationship "should be singled out as it is in the Harvard guidelines which assume only a relationship with the CIA would endanger the professor's or the school's integrity."

"And with all the opportunities today for conflict of interest, we think that is a naive assumption."

On operations, Turner pointed to the incompatibility of "having good intelligence and having 100 percent openness" and noted it was not the intelligence unit alone that had secrets.

"In the academic community, Ph.D. researchers certainly don't share their research before they publish it," he said.

"All of us have the problem of where we draw the line between complete public inspection of our activities and some degree of secrecy," he said. "We have been drawing it further and further in this country."

The AAUP Saturday approved a resolution submitted by the California delegation asking Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr. to guarantee due process to faculty members whose jobs are threatened by budget cuts following last week's stunning Proposition 13 vote.

California faculty spokesmen had indicated earlier the governor may target the four-year public campuses of the University of California and California State University in \$300 million cuts sought because he considers higher education a "discretionary" rather than mandatory item.

Some 3,300 positions at California State alone may be in jeopardy, according to June Pollak, AAUP coordinator there.

A national AAUP stance was prompted partly by worry among delegations at the convention that what happens in California as a result of the historic referendum, which drastically pared property tax revenues, could reverberate through many other states and public university campuses.

The faculty group from the State University of New York notably endorsed the measure with the reminder that it had already gone through retrenchment which resulted in layoffs two years ago.

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